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Remember summer? Yeah, we don't either. This kid does, though, and Winnipeggers are looking to join him. ISTOCK PHOTO

Winter-weary Winnipeggers look to escape

Enough already.
Local travel agency says its phone lines have been heating up with cold customers

ELISHA DACEY
elisha.dacey@metronews.ca

Frozen cars. Massive ruts. Roads more slippery than a politician. Wind chills of -47. Cancelled buses. Downed light standards. Constant weather warnings. And when it does warm up, you can't tell because the wind is gusting 70 km/h and 10 centimetres of snow is falling.

It's only early January, but it feels like it's been winter for months in Winnipeg, and we're tired of it — which means money in travel agents' pockets.

CAA Manitoba, which is also a full-service travel agency, said they're fielding more than just record numbers of roadside assistance calls.

"(The travel agency is) far busier this week than we have been in typical Januaries," said spokesperson Liz Peters.

'Peggers looking for relief are having trouble actually escaping, however, as the cold this week has seen airlines cancel flights in and out of the city, and storms in the east means even more airline turbulence.

Peters said the travel deals aren't as good as they were just a few years ago, but those able to leave at a few days' notice are scoring warm getaways for few pesos.

'Crimes of opportunity'

Keep watch as your car warms up

Police are reminding drivers to keep an eye on their keys and idling cars this winter after numbers released Tuesday show more than half of the cars stolen in the city last month were either left running unattended or taken after thieves got their hands on the keys.

"Often times these are crimes of opportunity," said police spokesperson Const. Jason Michalyshen. "If we remove that crime of opportunity it won't happen."

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

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NEWS

'People will die'

Nurse says concerns were ignored months before ER death

A nurse at a Winnipeg hospital says she sounded a warning that "people will die" in a newly-designed emergency room months before a man died during a 34-hour wait for care.

Jan Kozubal told the inquest into the death of Brian Sinclair she had concerns about the renovated emergency room at Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre when it opened in 2007. Kozubal testified the redesign made it hard to see patients in the waiting room from the nurses' station.

"I voiced concerns," Kozubal told the inquest Tuesday.

According to notes from an administrative review conducted after Sinclair's death in September 2008, Kozubal relayed to senior staff that she had told an emergency room doctor "people will die in here."

She told senior staff leading the review "we voiced our concerns from day one about the TV facing backwards" making it impossible to see the faces of many patients from the nurses' station.

But she said "nobody was listened to," the notes state.

Sinclair, who was a double-amputee, went to the hospital the afternoon of Sept. 19, 2008 because he hadn't urinated in 24 hours. Although Kozubal was working that day, she said she doesn't remember ever seeing the man or his name being on the triage list.

He died of a treatable bladder infection caused by a blocked catheter.

The administrative review following Sinclair's death found 17 staff members observed the aboriginal man in the waiting room, but no one asked if he was waiting for medical care.

The review said they all made different assumptions about why he was there.

The inquest is scheduled to sit this week and then resume again for two more weeks in February.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winnipeg police spokesperson Const. Jason Michalyshen speaks to media Tuesday after police charged a woman Monday with second-degree murder in connection to the death of Keith George McFee, 69. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Charge laid in city's latest homicide

Questions remain. Police won't say how man was killed while investigation continues

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Police say a woman with ties to the city's sex trade has been charged with second-degree murder in connection to Winnipeg's last recorded homicide of 2013.

Keith George McFee, 69, was found dead in his apartment in the 200 block of Fernwood Avenue Jan. 3.

Police spokesperson Const. Jason Michalyshen told media Tuesday McFee had been drinking in his apartment with a woman associated to the city's sex trade sometime between Dec. 26 and 27 when an argument between the two escalated and he was fatally assaulted with a weapon.

"I'm not sure at this point whether they were arguing about anything specific, but certainly … judgment between the two may have been somewhat impaired," said Michalyshen. "Obviously good decisions weren't being made."

Michalyshen said McFee and the suspect knew each other from previous meetings, but couldn't say how well they knew each other or why they were together on the night he was killed.

Michalyshen also wouldn't elaborate on how exactly McFee was killed or what type of weapon was used.

After the killing police allege the suspect took off in McFee's car, which officers found abandoned in the 500 block of William Avenue Sunday.

Sales tax. Manitoba government won't say what it considered before deciding on PST hike

The Manitoba government examined "different scenarios" before settling on a one per cent increase to the provincial sales tax in the last provincial budget, although those options are being kept under wraps.

The government has come under fire for raising the tax to eight per cent from seven last July and bypassing a referendum required for such a hike under the balanced budget law.

The Canadian Press recently filed a freedom of information request seeking any documents that might show whether the government looked at a steeper increase — specifically, to nine per cent — in the three months prior to the budget.

In response, the Finance Department said it was refusing to release some documents under a section of the freedom of information law that exempts advice to cabinet.

"After reviewing the records, we have found that no such record exists. Finance did determine that some preliminary pre-budget analysis on the one per cent increase to PST included two small portions where comparators were developed to provide context to other analysis," the letter states.

"The disclosure of these records is refused as Finance is prohibited ... from releasing records that are prepared for cabinet."

The department's access co-ordinator refused to elaborate, and would not clarify when asked whether the documents included any specific reference to a nine per cent sales tax.

Stan Struthers, finance minister at the time, was not available for an interview. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"During the budget process different scenarios are put forward, analysed and submitted to cabinet to provide comparisons and context which help inform any potential budget decisions."

Sally Housser, press secretary to current Finance Minister Jennifer Howard

Dr. Rage & the Uppercuts front man James Rewucki is launching a contest to crown Winnipeg's cultural champion and help promote the band's upcoming album. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Local band wants to find Winnipeg's cultural champion

Scene it. Contest asks Winnipeggers to make a resolution to be 'culturally fit' in 2014

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Got what it takes to be Winnipeg's cultural champion?

A Winnipeg band is launching their latest record with a contest that aims to find out once and for all who is this city's most dedicated connoisseur of the local arts scene.

"We want to try to get people to be enthusiastic about being arts supporters — especially bands because that's where we're coming from," said James Rewucki, the front man of Dr. Rage & the Uppercuts, who came up with the contest to help promote their upcoming album, Rage 3. "The whole idea is to do something unique because nowadays you can't just release an album ... we wanted to think of an idea that would engage people."

The social media game, dubbed Culture is Your Operating System, asks those who sign up to post selfies of themselves at cultural events — anything from concerts to art shows — on the contest's Facebook page.

The scenesters seen at the most scenes between Jan. 15 and April 15 will be awarded prizes including luxury box tickets to a Winnipeg Jets game, a BBQ and all night party with Dr. Rage & the Uppercuts, and the chance to cameo in an upcoming music video.

"The idea of the contest is to get people involved in the scene and give them some sort of reward for doing it," explained Rewucki. "And it's not just for the prizes — there's also the bragging rights that come along with being Winnipeg's cultural champion."

To take part in the game and for more information on how it works go to cultureisyouroperatingsystem.com.

Beat the Heat

Winnipeg Humane Society spaying cats for $20

The Winnipeg Humane Society is accepting appointments to have your female cat spayed in February for only $20.

Called the Beat the Heat campaign, the goal is to spay 500 cats to help fight cat overpopulation in Winnipeg. "Cats can have several litters per year," said Dr. Erika Anseeuw, WHS Director of Animal Health. "By encouraging pet owners to fix them this February, before they come into their first heat, we could prevent thousands of unwanted litters."

Cat owners can call 204-888-7627 to book an appointment. METRO

Snow removal

Know your zone?

Crews are scrambling to get caught on snow removal in Winnipeg after 70 per cent of the streets in one of the city's snow zones were completely missed on the weekend.

The city said Tuesday a combination of garbage collectors and bins getting in the way of plows, frigid temperatures, and the sheer amount of snowfall left crews unable to finish their work in Snow Zone J Sunday night.

Crews will return to finish the job in Zone J starting Wednesday morning, and residents are asked to report missed streets in other zones to 311.

METRO

Manitoba Telecom

President of Allstream division to leave

Manitoba Telecom Services Inc. says the president of its MTS Allstream division is stepping down on Jan. 17 to pursue other interests, following 17 years with the company.

Allstream president Dean Prevost will be replaced by the division's chief operating officer, Michael Strople, who has been with the company since 2005.

Prevost is the second senior executive to depart Allstream since the federal government blocked a deal in October to sell the operations to an Egyptian group for $520 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bronte classic comes to MTC

Tim Campbell as Edward Rochester and Jennifer Dzialosynski as the title character in Manitoba Theatre Centre's Jane Eyre, which runs Jan. 9 through Feb. 1. For tickets, visit mts.mb.ca. BRUCE MONK/MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE

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Did you look up from a screen to read this?

Odds are you did, says a recent report. Half of Canadians say they spend close to 90% of their free time staring at a TV, tablet or smartphone

Canadian smartphone owners estimate they spend an average of nearly 90 per cent of their free time staring at one of the many screens they own, suggests a recently released report.

In an online poll of 28,000 Canadians — conducted in August by Ipsos on behalf of Google — half the respondents said they owned a smartphone. Of the smartphone users, 99 per cent also had a computer, 88 per cent had a TV, and 39 per cent had a tablet.

Smartphone owners admitted that they'd peg their screen time, including watching TV, using a computer, tablet or e-reader at about 86 per cent of their free time.

On the flip side, they figured they spent only 14 per cent of their leisure time daily listening to the radio, reading a printed page or enjoying other non-digital activities.

On average, smartphone owners said they spent about an hour and a half each day on their phone for personal use, with about 56 per cent happening outside the home.

Tablet owners said they were using their device for about an hour and 15 minutes daily, and three-quarters of that usage was at home.

Canadian smartphone owners spend an average of about 86 per cent of their free time looking at one of their many screens, a recently released poll suggests. ISTOCK

On the other hand...

Multi-tasking users were most likely to be on their phone while watching TV, followed by a pairing of using their phone and their computer together, and then using their tablet while channel surfing.

- Half of all TV viewers said they always have their phone, tablet or computer with them while looking for something to watch.

Computer users said they spent three hours and 10 minutes working or playing on a PC daily in their personal time, including an hour away from home.

When asked about using their devices simultaneously — for example, swiping and tapping on a phone or tablet while watching TV — 87 per cent said they do it at least once a week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver. Protesters who disrupted Harper event won't be charged

Vancouver police say they won't be pursuing criminal charges against two climate-change protesters who came within touching distance of Prime Minister Stephen Harper on a stage at an event in Vancouver.

The protesters, who have publicly identified themselves as Sean Devlin and Shireen Soofi, walked on stage during a Vancouver Board of Trade question-and-answer event at a downtown hotel on Monday.

They were quickly removed and the event carried on, but the stunt raised questions about how two activists could get that close to Harper.

Sgt. Randy Fincham said Vancouver police consulted with the RCMP and decided not to recommend charges.

"After consultation with both (the RCMP and the Crown), it was determined that it wasn't in the public's best interest to pursue an investigation into criminal charges," Fincham said in an interview Tuesday.

On Monday, the activists each held up a sign attacking Harper's record on climate change. One sign said "Climate Justice Now," while the other featured a dark line crossed through the phrase "Conservatives Take Climate Change Seriously." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's security keeps watch during his arrival at the Shell Aerocentre during his Western tour in North Saanich, B.C., Monday. CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. woman who assisted with mom's suicide gets time served

Shirley Vann, left, her daughter Linda Jean McNall and their two dogs are shown in this family photo. A U.S. mental health advocate hopes an Arizona woman who admits she helped her mother commit suicide in Canada will continue to get care if she's deported. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

An Alberta judge has agreed that an American woman who pleaded guilty to helping her mother kill herself should not have to spend any more time behind bars.

Judge Charles Gardener sentenced Linda Jean McNall to eight months of time already served on the rare charge of aiding suicide in the death of her 79-year-old mother, Shirley Vann. That was the recommendation made by both the Crown and the defence.

Court heard details about a suicide pact McNall made with Vann. Both had health problems and had cared for one another for decades.

Last spring, after Vann's health deteriorated, they sold their belongings, left behind mounting medical bills and drove from Sierra Vista, Ariz., to Canada's Rocky Mountains.

They pitched a tent near Hinton, 300 kilometres west of Edmonton, injected themselves and their two pet dogs with insulin, swallowed sleeping pills and opened a propane tank. Vann and the animals died, but McNall, 53, survived.

McNall, who had worked as a nurse, pleaded guilty to the crime last month. The sentence means McNall, who still suffers from depression and was being treated at Alberta Hospital, will be deported to Arizona.

McNall's lawyer, Laura Stevens, said her client will spend the night in jail in Edmonton and will be flown back to Phoenix on Wednesday. There, Stevens said, her client is scheduled to be evaluated by a case worker and a crisis management team.

Gardener noted the progress McNall had been making recently at Alberta Hospital after two more suicide attempts while there.

"I take some comfort that your condition is improving," he told McNall, who was seated in the prisoner's box. "I hope you will receive some ongoing treatment and comfort ... and that you eventually find worth and value in your life."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta. Man likely to face attempted murder charge after shootout with RCMP

RCMP say a man who was wounded in a shootout with Mounties on a farm east of Edmonton will likely face attempted murder and firearms charges.

One officer had his arm grazed by a bullet and another was run over by a truck driven by the suspect, who had been hiding in a shed.

The officer who was run over suffered broken bones and internal injuries and was undergoing surgery at an Edmonton hospital Tuesday afternoon.

Police said a couple arrested on the farm with the alleged gunman were later released without being charged.

The alleged gunman was in hospital being treated for gunshot wounds.

The wounded suspect was arrested after a lengthy standoff.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mexico City

2 Canadian women arrested in alleged firebomb attack

Two Canadian women have been arrested in Mexico City in connection with a firebomb attack on a government transportation department office and a car dealership. A Mexican man was also detained.

Prosecutors say the three face possible charges of causing damages to the office and the nearby car dealership.

The motive in the attack was not immediately clear.

Some Mexico City banks have been hit in recent years by small incendiary devices.

Those attacks have been attributed to small groups of leftists or animal rights activists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snowed in

Stranded trains arrive in Chicago

Hundreds of Amtrak passengers who spent the night aboard three trains stranded in snow in northern Illinois finally arrived in Chicago, rail line officials said Tuesday morning.

About 300 passengers on two trains that were stuck near Mendota, about 130 kilometres from Chicago, boarded buses in Princeton for the final leg of their trip, said Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari. They began arriving in downtown Chicago around 7 a.m. Tuesday and more were expected to arrive throughout the morning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Icy seas

Chinese ship breaks free

A Chinese icebreaker that became trapped last week after coming to the rescue of a Russian research ship stuck in heavy sea ice in Antarctica broke free on Tuesday, state media reported. The Xue Long, or Snow Dragon, reported becoming trapped on Friday, a day after its helicopter rescued 52 scientists, journalists and tourists on board the Russian Akademik Shokalskiy, which got into trouble on Christmas Eve. They were then transferred to an Australian icebreaker to take them home. It escaped after making a 100-degree turn and pushing away the ice, thereby splitting it and opening up a channel of water. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report

Disasters killed more people last year: Insurer

The German insurance company Munich Re says some 20,000 people died in natural disasters last year, about twice as many as in 2012.

Most of the deaths resulted from Typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines, Vietnam and China in November with a loss of almost 6,100 lives. Also taking a deadly toll were floods in India, which killed about 5,500 people in June. Munich Re's annual disasters report released Tuesday found that the economic cost of natural catastrophes was lower last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Life-threatening polar freeze descends over parts of U.S.

Indiana. At least 15,000 people were without power early Tuesday, and officials warned some could be in the cold for days

Brutal cold settled over parts of the U.S., sending the mercury plummeting Tuesday from New York and Washington to Atlanta, Nashville and Birmingham, where many people have little experience dealing with freezing weather.

The morning weather map for the eastern half of the U.S. looked like an algebra worksheet: lots of small, negative numbers. In fact, the Midwest and the East were colder than much of Antarctica.

Georgia, where the temperature dropped into the single digits, was colder than many cities in Alaska. While Kodiak and Juneau registered 4 and Anchorage was at -2, Atlanta dipped to -14 degrees early in the morning, or nearly 17 degrees below the average low this time of year.

"This is severely cold for these parts," said Brian Lynn, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Peachtree City, Ga.

Farther south in Pensacola, Fla., a Gulf Coast city better known for its white sand beaches than frost, streets normally filled with joggers, bikers and people walking dogs were deserted early Tuesday as the morning remained in the negative teens. Downtown, Monica Anderson and Tommy Howard jumped up and down and blew on their hands while they waited for a bus, struggling to stay warm.

Anderson said she couldn't recall it ever being so cold.

"I'm not used to it. It is best just to stay inside until it gets better," said Anderson.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The cold weather makes vision challenging as Jobin Curoe's glasses fog up while walking in temperatures and wind chills reaching -40 to -50 on the Lawrence University campus on Monday.

SHARON CEKADA/THE POST-CRESCENT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prison brrr-eak

Fugitive too cold to get far, gives up

Just how cold is it in the U.S.? Apparently cold enough for an escaped prisoner to turn himself in. Authorities say the inmate escaped from a minimum security facility in Kentucky on Sunday. As temperatures dropped far below freezing Monday, they say he walked into a motel and asked the clerk to call police. Lexington police spokeswoman Sherelle Roberts says 42-year-old Robert Vick told the clerk he wanted to turn himself in and escape the arctic air. Roberts says Vick was checked out by paramedics and returned to Blackburn Correctional Complex.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Extreme cold causes delays at Toronto airport

Frustrated passengers line up during flight delays and cancellations due to extreme cold weather and wind chill at Pearson International Airport in Toronto on Tuesday. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Extreme cold in the Toronto area, where temperatures plunged to about -40 C overnight with the wind chill, caused a rash of delays and flight cancellations Tuesday at Pearson International Airport.

The airport put a so-called ground freeze on all North American arrivals through the morning, but it was lifted at 10 a.m. More than 600 flights were cancelled throughout the day and many more were delayed.

The freeze was put in place because of the extreme cold's effects on equipment and efforts to minimize time outdoors for employees, said Greater Toronto Airports Authority spokeswoman Shereen Daghstani.

"It was the extreme weather conditions that impacted safe operations and employee safety," she said. "When it comes to refuelling or removing the bags, those need to be done by employees."

The problems were reportedly compounded by a backlog of planes waiting for gates to open to off-load passengers, travellers waiting hours to collect their luggage and long lineups snaking through Pearson's terminals.

Robert Palmer, spokesman for WestJet, said the company's planes couldn't take off Monday night, creating a bottleneck at the gates.

"As soon as a gate became available, we would push a plane to that gate, we would let the people off. We did not take their baggage off because that would've taken extra time and meanwhile there was a lineup of people in planes waiting to get off the plane," he said.

Connie Smith said she'd dealt with several weather-related delays and missed connections on her journey from Edmonton back to her home in Newfoundland. She and her husband were stranded overnight in Toronto. "This is horrible, just the waiting and the lineups. It should be more organized," she said as her husband stood in line at a service counter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oil's well that ends well. Washing machine gives birth to fully grown man

A naked Australian man who became stuck in a washing machine as part of an ill-planned practical joke was freed from the appliance with the help of an unusual rescue device: olive oil.

The 20-year-old man, identified only as "Laurence," told Australia's Fairfax Radio that he was on his way to take a shower on Saturday when he decided to climb into the top-loader to have a bit of fun.

Priorities

"I was quite disappointed they used my good olive oil."

Would-be prankster 'Laurence'

The fun quickly evaporated, however, when he realized he couldn't budge.

He called out to his friend for help, who rang the police. They responded to the scene, along with firefighters, paramedics and a search-and-rescue squad.

"He was very well wedged in there, and we were concerned for his health and well-being," Shepparton Police Sgt. Michelle De Araugo told the Shepparton News. "It was just a game gone wrong. It would be fair to say the gentleman was very embarrassed."

Rescuers tried in vain to pull Laurence from the machine.

But when it became clear he was seriously stuck, they grabbed a bottle of his favourite olive oil to help lubricate his escape.

The oil worked, and he popped out.

"I was quite disappointed they used my good olive oil," Laurence told Fairfax Radio. "As soon as the washing machine went on its side, it was a bit like a birthing."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Can't-sea otter finds safe home

Walter, a sea otter blinded by a shotgun in October, was moved from the Marine Mammal Rescue Centre to the Vancouver Aquarium on Tuesday after he was deemed not-releasable into the wild. The otter suffered multiple shattered bones in his flipper and needed oral surgery to treat damage caused by the shotgun pellets. Veterinarians were unable to save Walter's eyesight. SINDHU DHARMARAJAH/METRO IN VANCOUVER

What did you eat?

Diapers set off Geiger counters

Austrian hazmat specialists have discovered why gauges showed alarming readings for a dump truck: radioactive adult diapers.

Firefighters from the hazardous-materials unit of the city of Linz found nearly two dozen diapers from a hospital that had become contaminated with radioactive iodine. The substance is swallowed during some medical and diagnostic procedures.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Whey your options

Velveeta may be scarce for weeks

Kraft Foods says some customers may not be able to find Velveeta cheese over the next few weeks. A representative for the company didn't give any reasons for the apparent shortage, saying only that they happen from time to time given the "nature of manufacturing."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Feathers flying. Sears pecks Canada Goose back over trademark lawsuit

Canada Goose is trying to "bully" Sears Canada Inc. and other retailers through litigation, Sears is alleging in court documents as it hits back at a trademark infringement lawsuit.

The parka maker's real motive is to curtail the sales of lower-priced winter jackets so Canada Goose can keep selling its products "at a huge mark up" Sears alleges.

Canada Goose alleges in a lawsuit filed late last year that Sears is selling knock-offs of its highly distinctive coats.

The department store has now filed its statement of defence in Federal Court and is taking direct aim not just at this particular lawsuit, but what the retailer calls Canada Goose's "campaign of intimidation." Neither Sears' nor Canada Goose's allegations have been proven in court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada Goose parkas are known for a distinctive circular logo on its sleeve, fur hood and hefty price tag. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Clio. Acrylic-glass speaker makes 'crystal clear sound'

Ever tried to play a tune by rubbing the rim of a crystal wine glass?

One company has polished that idea so much that the phrase "crystal clear sound" will now have a different meaning. ClearView Audio has come up with a speaker made of acrylic glass called Clio.

Clio uses a piece of curved acrylic glass that is a millimeter thick. It sits on a dock and vibrates it in a finely tuned way so that it can play music.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Clio speaker at the International Consumer Electronics Show. AP

Apptacular sales

Apple's app store tops $10B in 2013

The Angry Birds Star Wars app helped Apple set records. SCREENGRAB

Apple says people spent more than $10 billion US in its app store last year, on apps such as Minecraft, Angry Birds Star Wars and Sleep Cycle alarm clock.

December was the most successful month in the store's history, as customers spent $1 billion that month. Apple says the year's total was also a record. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Concordia disaster

Ex-CEO of Costa Cruises retiring

Carnival Corp. said Tuesday that the former CEO of Costa Cruises, the company behind the 2012 Concordia disaster, is retiring.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
92.83¢ (-1.05¢)

TSX
13,596.93 (+101.39)

OIL
$93.67 US (+$0.24)

GOLD
$1,229.60 US (-$8.40)

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	Economy from	Business from
Miami Travel Mar 18 - Mar 25	$535	$1549
Las Vegas Travel Mar 18 - Mar 25	$569	$1719
Los Angeles Travel Feb 24 - Mar 3	$669	$2279
Hong Kong Travel Apr 2 - Apr 16	$849	$4499
London Travel Feb 11 - Feb 25	$1059	$5259

Sun Destination Flights

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MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

You have to feel sorry for Michael Bay.

Not because he's the director of epic Hollywood stinkers such as the Transformers movies and classic clunkers such as Pearl Harbour and Bad Boys II.

No, we have to send Michael a hug because he has suffered through the worst experience ever. There he was at the giant Consumer Electronics Show in Vegas on Monday, presenting on behalf of the 105-inch, curved-screen TV from Samsung, when he lost his place on the teleprompter and couldn't find it again.

After stammering and shuffling for the world's longest minute, he walked off the stage, leaving the Samsung guy holding the bag.

An ignominious retreat for the whiz kid who learned at the knees of George Lucas and Steven Spielberg to become one of the richest Masters of Tinsel Town, worth more than $400 million, according to Celebrity Net Worth.

The other reason we should feel sorry for Michael Bay is that nobody else is. Going mute at the world's foremost consumer electronics show is bad enough, but the peanut gallery is howling with delight.

Someone said he only did what so many before him have wanted to do: Walk out of a Michael Bay production. Someone else observed that it was the first time he seemed uncomfortable without a script.

Whoa. Tough crowd.

And that's going to make it tougher for the 75 per cent of us who fear public speaking more than death itself. Yes, that's true. Glossophobia, as the fear of public speaking is called, is the No. 1 phobia, beating out the fear of death, and No. 3, fear of spiders. Jerry Seinfeld once observed that at a funeral, most of us would rather be in the casket instead of giving the eulogy.

Even if it's just standing in front of the class to spell glossophobia, most of us would rather die. My first real bout with stage fright happened in Grade 8, when I was required to stand in front of a packed school gym and play Moon River on the trombone. Somehow I got through the whole thing even though the sheet music kept slipping off the stand. But I kept thinking: There are two people in the audience who actually want to hear this, and I'm only sure about one of them (my mother).

No word on whether Michael Bay's mother was in the audience at CES, but it's a good idea for the jackals to remember that he has one, and she must be suffering agonies for her boy. For the sake of his mother, get off his case.

And if that doesn't move you to sympathy, you can at least learn from this ghastly experience. The next time you have to stand in front of an audience, before you go on, remember what happened to Michael Bay.

If that doesn't cause you to break into a flop sweat, nothing will.

ZOOM

Poached in their safe haven

COURTESY TIM WATTERS/SEA SHEPHERD AUSTRALIA

Protected whales seen captured

Activists have released rare photographs of protected whales killed by a Japanese fleet inside an internationally recognized ocean sanctuary.

Anti-whaling campaign group Sea Shepherd captured aerial footage of three minke whales' bloodied carcasses lying on the deck of Japanese vessel Nisshin Maru. METRO

Japan has loophole in moratorium

The images, purportedly taken inside the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary in Antarctica's Ross Dependency, have drawn international criticism from activists and politicians. Commercially hunting whales is banned in the region, but Japanese fleets allegedly capture the animals under a "scientific research" loophole in the moratorium on whaling. METRO

The image released by Sea Shepherd shows a bloodied deck of the Japanese whaling vessel Nisshin Maru. CONTRIBUTED

Surveillance

- The chairman of Sea Shepherd Australia says there is no oversight from the federal government.
- Last month, Australia's environment minister said there would be a plane sent to monitor the operation. Prior to the election, he said there would be a ship.

Clickbait

IRENE KUAN
Metro Online

Tech giants at the 2014 Consumer's Electronics Show in Las Vegas showed off their latest innovations in high-tech appliances from wireless, app-based plant monitors to a robot vacuum. Here are some highlights of home gadgets meant to make your life easier.

CONTRIBUTED

Parrot Flower Power wireless plant monitor:

Ever wonder if your plant is parched or when its light intensity or temperature isn't quite right? With the Parrot Flower device, you can monitor and analyze the growth conditions of your flowery friends via a Bluetooth-equipped sensor that sends information to your smartphone or tablet using an app.

Smart Hom-Bot vacuum system:

This high-tech vacuum system is meant to make your life more convenient with the ability to map out your home to ensure a more effective cleaning path. The duel lenses on the appliance can snap images of your home and can remember the positioning of objects to sense when an area is already clean. It can also help clean air in the home via a HEPA filter, according to LG.

Panasonic's nanoe wet dry hair dryer:

A hair dryer may not seem all that impressive next to the many high-tech devices and gadgets at CES, but what makes Panasonic's nanoe hair dryer stand out is that it has the ability to add moisture to hair while drying it. According to Panasonic, the dryer breaks blown ions down before infusing them with moisture so imagine drying your tresses without having to worry about drying them out.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Team Canada announced its roster for Sochi Olympics. Who would you have liked to see make the cut?

@KurtPenner: I would have picked Marty St Louis! #heart #consistency #goals #speedy #jiltedlasttime

@BergysAWarrior: #Looch deserved to be on #TeamCanada who wouldn't want a guy that can change a game with either a huge hit or by scoring a highlight goal :(

@alexisannna: I'm so sad about #Seabs and #Crow not making team canada but on the bright side #Sharp, #Toews and #Keith made it. #Sochi2014 #TeamCanada

@kfox9611: #TeamCanada should've brought Joe Thornton.. Imagine he scored 4 goals in the Olympics... #JumboJoe

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Grammys

Daft Punk GETTY IMAGES FILE

Daft Punk to perform with Stevie Wonder

For a group that had one of the top albums of the past year, Daft Punk has been keeping a low profile — even lower than the duo's disguise-happy public persona would suggest.

Since releasing their hit Random Access Memories in May, the helmeted ones haven't even performed live in front of an audience.

But when you're nominated for five Grammys, that's kind of a command performance, especially when one of those nominations is for Album of the Year.

In the grand tradition of unlikely Grammy pairings that actually make a lot of musical sense, Daft Punk will be performing with Motown legend Stevie Wonder, the show's executive producer Ken Ehrlich told Rolling Stone.

Rolling Stone also reported that Pharrell Williams and Nile Rodgers will perform with Daft Punk, so you can expect a rendition of their mega-hit, Get Lucky. METRO

Pack A.D. to engage new fans with Do Not Engage

Shift in sound.
Garage-rock duo push for a bigger audience with latest album

Vancouver garage-rock duo the Pack A.D., from left, Maya Miller and Becky Black. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver garage-rock duo the Pack A.D. finally cleaved their way onto Canadian airwaves with 2011's Unpersons, a record that strayed far from the skeletal hard blues that marked their early work.

With Do Not Engage — out Jan. 28 — the band is pushing its newfound tunefulness even further, and the duo is blunt when asked to describe the shift in sound.

"Now our songs have things like choruses," said drummer Maya Miller during a recent chat in Toronto. "They never used to. Truthfully, they do have more melodies now."

Shedding their nascent primal-blues leanings almost completely, the Pack A.D. here channel the melodic fuzz of '90s post-grunge and lo-fi for a concise set of 11 songs that recall a range of influences including the Breeders, the Grifters and Superchunk.

There's still variety within that framework. "There's no real consistency but I kind of like that," singer Becky Black muses, but the common thread is a new accessibility.

And that pop craft arrived at a fortuitous time for the band, seemingly perched on the cusp of a breakthrough.

Since Unpersons came out, they became Juno Award nominees for breakthrough group (natch), signed with Nettwerk Records — such a sufficiently large label that Black marvels "there's a lot more people to remember" — and whisked their undomesticated live show across some larger stages, including a gig last month opening for the Arctic Monkeys.

Miller and Black acknowledge that a desire to capitalize on such opportunities did influence their songwriting.

"I think it obviously played a part in coming up with this album," Miller said.

"I also think people now can dance to our new album," she added. "I think it's been harder to dance to our music in the past. We used to have less opportunity for that. It was very odd music. It didn't really go anywhere. So maybe it's going somewhere."

If it sounds as though the pair is unhappy with their earliest work — 2008's Tintype and Funeral Mixtape — well, that's pretty accurate.

Those elemental recordings helped the duo gather a following, but they're not representative of where the group is at now.

"For me, I tried to think we didn't do those first two albums," Miller said. "Not in a really bad way, but it just feels like I don't even understand what we were doing then."

"I guess you have to look at it positively though," Black interjects. "The only reason the albums are better now is because they were bad in the beginning."

And that dissatisfaction pushed them to where they are now. THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the band's past albums

"There's nowhere to move with happiness. I think it's a terrible place to be. It's complacency. You do not grow from being happy."

Pack A.D. drummer Maya Miller

SCENE

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Curves

Tracy Letts

A man who deserves the hyphens

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Tracy Letts CONTRIBUTED

Hollywood is full of hyphenates, the kind of people who introduce themselves as a model-actor-writer-waiter-personal-trainer-dog-walker.

But there's one Tinsel Town citizen who has actually earned every word in his hyphenated title.

Tracy Letts is an actor-writer-producer-Pulitzer-Prize-winner who is going to have to get bigger business cards if he gets any more successful.

You may not recognize the name unless you pay attention to the end credits of Homeland — he plays Senator Andrew Lockhart — or if you know who won the 2013 Tony Award for best actor in a play for Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

He's a multi-talent with a shelf of awards, some heavyweight acting credits and a new movie screenplay on his resumé.

His latest project, the script for August: Osage County, puts words into the mouths of some of the biggest stars in Hollywood. The film brings together the Weston sisters, Barbara (Julia Roberts), Karen (Juliette Lewis) and Ivy (Julianne Nicholson) with their pill-popping mommy dearest Violet (Meryl Streep).

As a writer, Letts says inspiration came from Tennessee Williams, William Faulkner and Jim Thompson, which might explain the dark vein that runs through his work.

How twisted are his plays? "Everybody in Tracy's stories gets naked or dead," says his mom, author Billie Letts.

Still, there is no denying that his screenplay for Killer Joe, the 2011 Matthew McConaughey thriller, is written with what Roger Ebert called, "merciless black humour." The story of a corrupt cop and a bad insurance claim earned critical praise even if the Women Film Critics Circle cited the film for its presentation of what they called "the worst female and male images" of the year.

Letts seems willing to take on any challenge to add to his hyphenated status. There's just one thing you can't ask him to do. "I don't act in the stuff that I write," he says. "I have no interest in doing that."

Nicholson gets her big break in August: Osage County

Playing Ivy.
Metro talks to the actress about her breakthrough role

MATT PRIGGE
Metro in New York City

From left, Julianne Nicholson, Meryl Streep and Margo Martindale in August: Osage County. CONTRIBUTED

Who:
Julianne Nicholson

Where you've seen her:
The films Kinsey, Flannel Pajamas and Brief Interviews With Hideous Men; the shows Law and Order: Criminal Intent, Boardwalk Empire and Masters of Sex.

Her big break:
Playing Ivy, the centre of the storm of grotesques in the new film adaptation of August: Osage County, Tracy Letts' Pulitzer-winning play, which also stars Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts, Chris Cooper and many, many more.

Was she intimidated doing a film on this scale?:
"Yes. The first hurdle was getting the job. I just didn't think about (the cast). Then I got the job and I felt great. I felt like I intrinsically knew who Ivy was. I was also doing a play at the time, a new Sam Sheppard (who has a role in the film) play, so I felt like I was in that world, in a way. But a week before, I started panicking. As soon as I arrived, though, everyone was really welcoming."

On doing a play on film:
"I didn't look at it as a play. I had seen the play and I had loved it. But enough time had passed that I didn't remember any specifics. It wasn't like I had to recreate anything. And it's an amazing piece that's perfectly written."

Doing a play on film by a TV director:
"John (Wells)' strength is with ensembles. He has a history of doing that with ER and Shameless and The Company Men. He has a real knack for bringing the right people together to get the best out of them."

Shooting the big set piece, a 19-page dinner scene, over four days:
"(Wells) broke it up into three sections, six or seven pages for each part. We rehearsed the whole thing through at Meryl's house. We all sat around the table and ate dinner while we rehearsed the lines and got the rhythm of it, discovered beats. When shooting it, it didn't feel choppy. It felt like everyone knew their lines. We probably could have done it straight through every time."

On it feeling like a play:
"Early on it felt like the beginning days of a play, when you're sitting around talking, before you put it on its feet. You're sharing stories and exploring ideas and asking questions. It was also just being together, getting to know each other, picking up each other's mannerisms, creating a feel of history so that when you start filming you already know each other, rather than showing up on the first day and acting like someone's your sister."

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Evan Peters and Emma Roberts ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

American Horror Story co-stars to wed — despite domestic abuse arrest

Evan Peters reportedly proposed to his American Horror Story co-star and girlfriend, Emma Roberts, over the holidays in New York before heading off to London for New Year's, according to People magazine.

The couple returned to the U.S. this week, with Roberts sporting a diamond on her ring finger.

Roberts, who has been dating Peters since 2012, was arrested on domestic violence charges last year after an incident that left Peters bloodied, though she was released a few hours later after he refused to press charges.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Twilight's Lutz on those Miley rumours

MEREDITH ENGEL
Metro World News

Ever since being spotted together at Beacher's Madhouse MGM around New Year's, The Legend of Hercules star Kellan Lutz has been linked with the world's most famous twerk monster, Miley Cyrus. But is there any truth to that rumour? We spoke to Lutz, who set the record straight.

"I adore the girl, and people assume stuff just because you're photographed at a party with multitudes of celebrities and public figures," he says.

"She's been a close friend of mine for years and we're friends. It's always great to hang out, especially with her being so busy and me being so busy.

"But the gossip and all these rumours that insiders say, they're funny because I don't look at these tabloids. ... I'm like, 'Where do people come up with this?' It's like people can just say 'insiders said' and then they can cover their butts that way. But no, she's an awesome girl and a really good friend."

So, folks, time to put away those fantasies of a tongue-wagging vampire baby.

Sean Penn

Charlize and Sean 'can't get enough of each other'

Sean Penn and Charlize Theron don't seem to be wasting any time with their new rumoured romance, reportedly spending nearly every day — and night — together since returning to L.A. on New Year's Day from a holiday getaway in Hawaii, according to E! News. "They are spending night after night together and moving very fast," a source says. "It seems like it's getting serious and they can't get enough of each other."

Twitter

@samantharonson
Tried to be a human being and went to sleep before midnight, now I'm wide awake. Is this what you guys do? Now what?

@DanaDelany
lost 150 followers with Twitter update. Weird. Anyone else?

@SteveMartinToGo
I'd like to apologize for calling Polar Vortex winter. It's actually more of a spring.

The Other Side
Four experts, 150 years of mysteries.
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a team of Aboriginal paranormal investigators.
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THE OTHER SIDE

Tulum's beach on the Riviera Maya in Mexico features not only beautiful sand but pure, aquamarine waters and the ruins of an ancient Mayan village. JIM BYERS/METRO

Tell the snow where to go

And say hello to sand.
Thaw the winter chill with an overview of some great beaches

JIM BYERS
@jimbyerstravel
jimbyerstravel.com

What with ice storms and snow and cold snaps, we could all use a bit of sand and surf right about now. Here's a look at eight of my favourite beaches in North America and the Caribbean.

Trunk Bay, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands

Perhaps the prettiest beach I've ever seen, with incredible water and even an underwater snorkelling trail you can follow. There's hardly a building in sight, the water is calm and there are great views of the British Virgin Islands.

Napili Beach, Maui, Hawaii

A perfect crescent of soft sand on a beach where no building can go more than two stories high. Safe for kids at the north end and decent bodysurfing at the south end, plus awesome views of nearby Molokai and killer sunsets.

Miami

Yeah, this is an obvious, easy one. But how can you resist the pretty people and great bars and the luscious Art Deco architecture? Try the SoHo Beach House for an artsy hotel stay or strut your stuff on Haulover Beach, one of the few legal nude beaches in the U.S.

Sugar Beach, St. Lucia

It's not big but it's flanked by glorious, jungle-clad, deep green outcroppings of rock called The Pitons. There's a great snorkelling reef that's a UNESCO heritage site.

Valley Church Beach on Antigua has lovely sand and smooth, clear waters.

Tulum, Mexico

If you get tired of checking out the pretty, young people cavorting in the aquamarine water, you can gaze at the lovely rock formations or soak in the view of Mayan ruins overlooking the sea.

Valley Church, Antigua

The soft, white sand goes on for a good long while and the beach is flanked by pretty green hills dotted with vacation homes. There's a nice beach bar called The Nest.

Capitola, Calif.

I once called this village the best California surf town The Beach Boys never sang about. There's a pier for viewing sea lions or surfers and several rows of colourful homes right on the sand.

Hanalei Beach, Kauai, Hawaii

A gorgeous, long stretch on the north coast. It can be rainy here but the views of the nearby mountains are glorious. The beach was featured in the movie The Descendants with George Clooney. I don't think you'll see him, but hope springs eternal, doesn't it?

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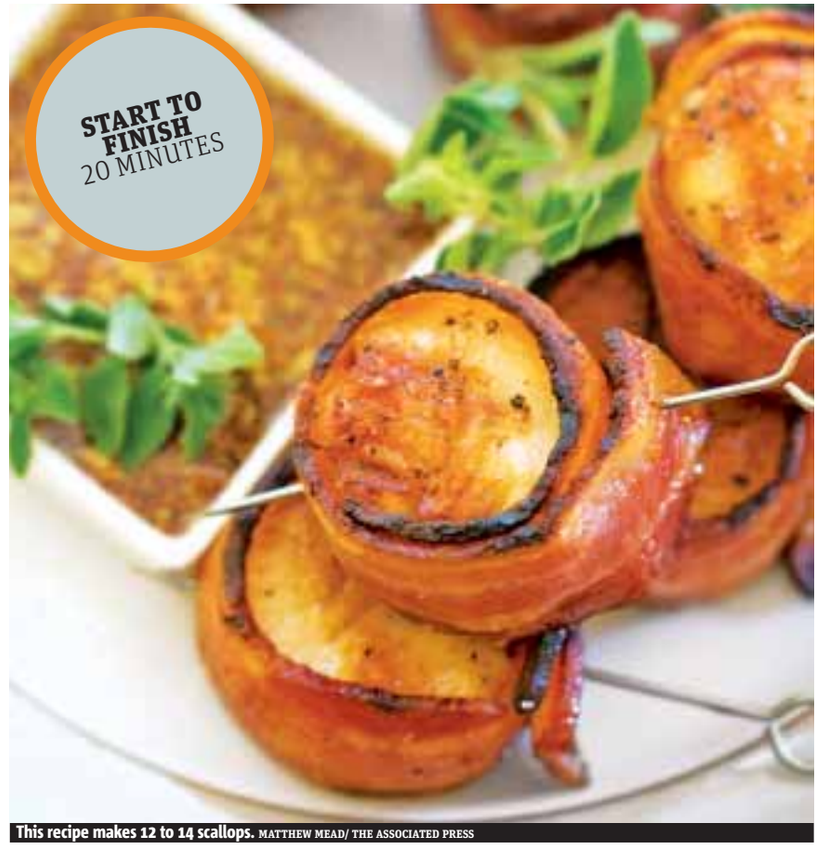
Luxury meets ease: Bacon-Wrapped Scallops



This recipe makes 12 to 14 scallops. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bacon-wrapped scallops are one of the most luxurious appetizers you can serve, not to mention one of the easiest to prepare.

Because there are only two main ingredients in this dish, you need to make sure you use the best quality — the biggest, freshest sea scallops you can find, and the most flavourful bacon. After that, they are so easy to grill that you hardly need a recipe.

There are two types of scallops, but only one of them is appropriate for the grill.

Tiny bay scallops are so sweet, you can eat them raw or just lightly sautéed. But they also are more expensive and not suited for grilling. What you want are the larger, less expensive sea scallops.

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp whole-grain mustard
- 2 tbsp maple syrup
- 1 lb jumbo sea scallops
- 1/2 lb centre-cut bacon
- Salt and ground black pepper
- Round wooden toothpicks, soaked in water for 30 minutes

1. Heat oven to 400 F. Set a wire rack over rimmed baking sheet. Heat grill to med-high.

2. In a small bowl, mix together the mustard and maple syrup. Set aside.

3. Use paper towels to blot dry the scallops. Arrange them on a plate, then set aside.

4. Arrange the bacon in a single layer on the rack over the baking sheet. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until just starting to cook. Do not fully cook the bacon. Remove the bacon from the oven. If too hot to handle, let cool for several minutes. Once the bacon can be handled, wrap one slice of bacon around each scallop. Secure in place by threading one of the toothpicks through the bacon and scallop.

5. Use a pastry brush to lightly brush the tops and bottoms of the scallops with bacon fat from the pan. Season with salt and pepper. Grill for 2 to 3 minutes per side. Serve with the sauce for dolloping a bit onto each. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ELIZABETH KARMEL, AUTHOR OF SOAKED, SLATHERED AND SEASONED.

Dress up your fish

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

We all know that baked white fish is a fast and healthy way to get dinner on the table, particular during this annual time of dietary vow renewal.

What isn't always quite so clear is how to prepare that white fish without adding tons of fat and calories or rendering it a tasteless hunk of protein. But it's all about what you top it with.

This recipe uses a pineapple-mint salsa that gets tons of flavour from not only its namesake ingredients, but also cilantro, jalapeno, onion and garlic. The salsa is also great spooned over a baked sweet potato.

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 lbs haddock fillets
- Olive oil
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 1 lb fresh pineapple flesh, cut into chunks
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 medium red onion, quartered
- 1/4 cup fresh mint
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro
- Juice of 1 lime
- Hot sauce, to taste

1. Heat the oven to 400 F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil, then coat it with cooking spray.

2. Arrange the haddock fillets on the baking sheet, then brush them with a bit of olive oil. Season with salt and pepper, then bake for 12 minutes, or until the fish flakes easily.

3. Meanwhile, in a food processor, combine the pineapple, jalapeno, onion, mint, cilantro and lime juice. Pulse until roughly chopped. Transfer to a bowl, then season with salt and pepper. Adjust heat by adding hot sauce, if desired. Serve the salsa over the haddock. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sussing out your sensational (and sizable) selection of job supporters

Reference check.
You can never have too many individuals singing your praise on the job hunt

MEGHAN GREAVES
Metro World News

During your studies and the early stages of your work life, you'll develop relationships with all sorts of different individuals and you never know how these relationships may help you down the road when starting your career search.

Your part-time employer, a mentor that you had while completing a campus or school project, a career counsellor, a professor or a peer with whom you worked on a big project are all examples of people who can become useful professional connections.

How to do it

Ask as you go

One of the easiest ways to build your references is to treat the connection process as an ongoing activity. This will help you avoid scrambling to remember all your important contacts when you need them.

Be sure to ask your potential references if they would be willing to give you a professional or personal reference letter, depending on the situation, once your work with them is complete.

If you aren't sure about the strength of your connection, stay in contact and work on building a relationship through email.

Can't stop, won't stop

One of the easiest ways to build your references is to treat the connection process as an ongoing activity.

It's not just about who you know, it's about the people you know who think you've got plenty to offer. ISTOCK

Don't be afraid to ask

Asking someone for a reference doesn't have to be a daunting task — you've likely already established a good relationship with them. Also, it isn't mandatory to ask for a reference face-to-face. Though this is the most formal way to ask for a reference, if the idea truly puts you out of your comfort zone or you can't meet with the person, over the phone or via email works well too.

Keep it brief

Asking for a reference shouldn't be a speech about your life and why you deserve a reference from the person. Explain why you'd like them to be a reference and ask if they're comfortable doing so.

You don't want to waste their time — let them guide the conversation.

Why it's important to start now

Gives you credibility

Having references (you should aim to have at least three when applying for a job) shows that you have been able to take on multiple tasks and successfully complete them.

Volunteer experiences, work experiences, projects or participation in different societies are all good examples of tasks that require dedication and purpose. Potential employers want to know that they're investing in someone who won't get up and leave at a moment's notice. Having references to back you up only makes you more credible.

Supports your resumé

Anyone can make claims on a resumé. While you can't have a reference for every single item on your resumé, having a variety of references for different skills — organizational skills, leadership skills, marketing skills — makes every part of your resumé more substantial.

If you have different contacts to pull from, then you also have the ability to tailor your references to each job application. This can give you an edge and makes you more employable.

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- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications
- Creative, efficient, flexible & detail oriented
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Proven track record in profitable selling
- Excellent networking, organizational and time management skills
- Valid drivers license and a vehicle
- Media sales in real estate, and home related businesses is an asset

Interested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than January 24th, 2014.
PLEASE QUOTE: "Sales Representative - Winnipeg" in the subject line.
All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

NHL

St. Louis lets stick do the talking in rough one vs. Jets

Martin St. Louis scored the winner in the third period, then capped it with an empty-net goal to make it 4-2 for the Tampa Bay Lightning after a penalty-filled tussle with the Winnipeg Jets on Tuesday night.

The Jets were outshot two-to-one for most of the game, but still went into the third tied 2-2.

They scored two power-play goals and had managed to kill four of the chances they handed Tampa, until St. Louis tipped in Victor Hedman's shot from the point at 8:39 of the third on a fifth power play.

St. Louis, passed over for a spot on Canada's Olympic team, got a rare round of applause for an opposing player from the sellout crowd.

Valtteri Filppula and Ondrej Palat also scored for the Lightning (26-13-4) .

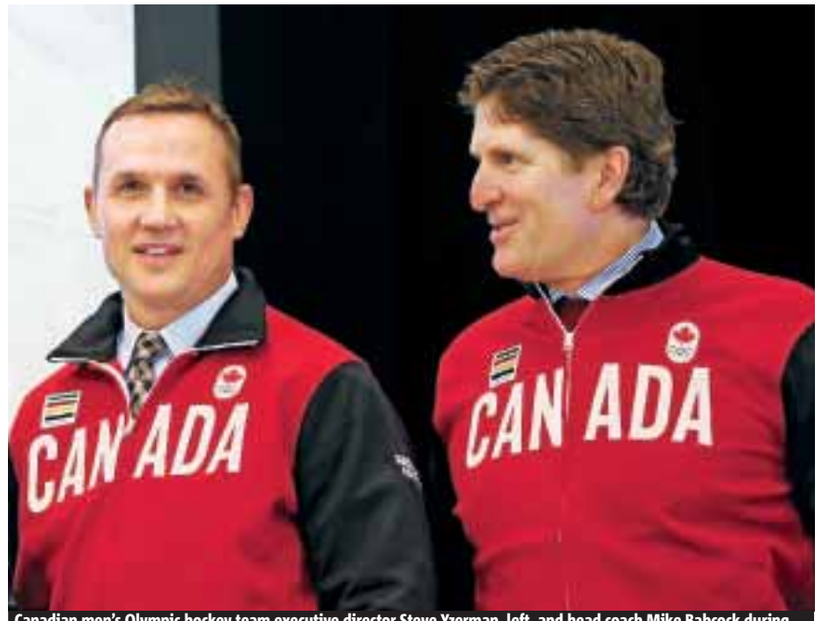
Olli Jokinen and Dustin Byfuglien scored for the Jets (19-22-5).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lightning forward Martin St. Louis scored two on Tuesday night at MTS Centre.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

All set up for Sochi

Olympic hockey. Kunitz, Marleau, Carter among questioned picks with likes of St. Louis, Giroux on outside looking in



Canadian men's Olympic hockey team executive director Steve Yzerman, left, and head coach Mike Babcock during the announcement of the 25-man roster on Tuesday in Toronto. ABELIMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

For more than four months, Team Canada's management staff anguished over these decisions.

Still, it took until 1 a.m. ET Tuesday — 10 hours before the team was to be unveiled — for executive director Steve Yzerman and his staff to come up with a final 25-man roster for the Sochi Olympics.

"We had gone out last night for dinner and came back. We were down to a couple of names and it was a real strong, healthy debate," St. Louis Blues general manager Doug Armstrong said. "At some point we had to stop at 25. When we got to that last name, we shook hands and said we're excited about this team."

With another gold medal the only measure of success, Yzerman, Armstrong and the rest of the management team read off names one by one, listing the group they hope will get the job done. Chris Kunitz, Patrick Marleau and Jeff Carter had their names called, while Claude Giroux, Logan Couture, Martin St. Louis and many others got phone calls from the staff delivering the bad news.

"The calls this morning to the guys that weren't making it, those are real difficult calls," Boston Bruins GM Peter Chiarelli said at Tuesday's news conference in Mississauga. "It kind of leaves an empty feeling in your stomach."

As difficult as those decisions and conversations were, they were necessary.

In the final analysis, Canada chose to put together a team of "different dimensions," in the words of Detroit Red Wings GM Ken Holland. Kunitz brings natural chemistry with Sidney Crosby, Marleau a mix of speed and scoring and Carter a nose for the net.

By the time the management team — made up of Yzerman, Holland, Chiarelli, Armstrong, Kevin Lowe, Hockey Canada executive Brad Pascall and coach Mike Babcock — got down to the final meeting, there was a general consensus on all three goaltenders, seven defencemen and 11 or 12 forwards.

Then it got down to brass tacks.

"The decisions, the late-night wrangling, it's like you go over things four, five, six, seven times," Chiarelli said. "Is this the right reason? Is this the right guy? What's the right reason? We talked about four or five guys at the end, and you have second thoughts, and you just got to be firm on what you believe and the fit."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's 25-man roster

Goalies. Roberto Luongo, Carey Price, Mike Smith.

Defencemen. Jay Bouwmeester, Drew Doughty, Dan Hamhuis, Duncan Keith, Alex Pietrangelo, P.K. Subban, Marc-Edouard Vlasic, Shea Weber.

Forwards. Jamie Benn, Patrice Bergeron, Jeff Carter, Sidney Crosby, Matt Duchene, Ryan Getzlaf, Chris Kunitz, Patrick Marleau, Rick Nash, Corey Perry, Patrick Sharp, Steven Stamkos, John Tavares, Jonathan Toews.

Motivating factors

"They're the people who make me better. So I hope they keep critiquing and finding things to talk about." Team Canada's P.K Subban, whose critics remain even after leading all NHL defencemen with 38 points in 42 games last season.

4 SPORTS

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Santa Fe takes on a snowstorm

Review. A 300-plus kilometre night-time trek in treacherous weather reveals the Hyundai model's winter prowess

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTO: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

2014 Hyundai Santa Fe

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 2-litre four cylinder, turbocharged and direct injected (264)
- **Transmissions.** 6-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $26,599

Tires

All wheel drive, ABS brakes and electronic stability control DO NOT make traction. The only way to increase the physical grip between a vehicle and a slippery road is with proper tires. Electronic aids or not, riding all-season tires in conditions like these would result in poor directional stability.

Xenon lights

My only complaint: xenon lights are typically great in a snowstorm. The ones in the Santa Fe were adequate, not mind-blowing. In clear conditions, they're more than adequate. For some reason, the light output diminishes notably when there's even a small amount of snow or ice on the lenses — and there's no washer system.

Mother Nature was all crabby-pants during my recent December test of the latest Hyundai Santa Fe, so she dumped about two feet of snow all over my hometown, then made the mercury plummet like Miley Cyrus's artistic standards.

Temperatures landed somewhere around 30 below, which is (delightfully) too cold for road salt to work. Prior to this, there was snow. Lots of snow. The second big, "all-night-long" dumping of the season. It left over a foot on the ground.

Naturally, I did what I always do when there's an all-night-long dumping of snow up here in Sudbury, Ont. I grabbed some buddies, some large double-doubles, and drove repeatedly around every unplowed back road I could find.

A few nights after this, I travelled 300 kilometres down Highway 69 after dark. That distance was spread evenly between extreme cold over frozen hard-packed ice-stripes and then slightly warmer temperatures accompanied by zero-visibility, blowing snow, and deep powder. A few noteworthy points about the wintertime driving experience of the tested 2013 Santa Fe 2.0T Limited AWD came to light in the process.

Proper ESC Calibration

In many winter situations, wheelspin is a good thing– and most of the time, the ESC in the Santa Fe allows enough of it. Wheelspin allows snow to be flung from the treads for better contact with the ground beneath the tires — so when you give Santa Fe the boots coming out of a parking lot and onto a busy street, it lets the wheels spin a little faster than they can grip to ensure you get moving quickly. In real life, this is more favorable than overly aggressive ESC systems that numb the throttle at any sign of wheelspin, cross their arms, report your activities to the fun police, and leave you throttleless in front of traffic. Ultimately, you'll feel like you're calling the shots, not the vehicle — and that's a good thing.

Hill Start Assist

Stop on a hill, and Santa Fe freezes the pressure in the brake lines for a few seconds while your foot moves from the brakes to the gas. This prevents rollback, makes life easier for the transmission, and also makes it far more likely that you'll get moving again after being stopped on an icy incline. After all, nothing's more embarrassing than holding up traffic while you spin all four tires and slide backwards like a sucker. The tester wore Hankook Winter I-Cept Evo tires in its 19-inch OEM size. I found them a nicely balanced all-round winter performance tire. They're perhaps slightly more slippery during hard braking and acceleration than a Michelin X-Ice or Pirelli Sottozero, but they are remarkably stable in a straight line and while steering.

AWD Done Right

Santa Fe's AWD system is clever and well set up for driving in nasty winter weather. The AWD system uses inputs from numerous sensors to pre-engage 4-wheel power in many situations when accelerating from a stop. Even with extremely light throttle in deep snow, it'll often power all four wheels from a stand still — preemptively increasing traction instead of letting the front wheels slip before engaging the rear ones. Otherwise, when the system brings the rear wheels online for propulsion, they engage quickly–within about 2 or 3 revolutions of the front wheels, and get a good share of engine power. This AWD system isn't shy about calling the rear wheels into play, and when all four tires spin, power is split actively to maximize extraction of available traction. There's even a 'lock' setting to pre-set the system into a 50/50 power split, though I never needed to use it. No issues with needless tire spinning or harshness during shifting power between the front and rear. In virtually any situation, this setup feels like it knows what it's doing.

Finally

After arriving at my destination, there was approximately 147 pounds of salty brown filthy road-guck frozen to the underside of the Santa Fe's front doors. Thankfully, those front doors actually cover the structural rocker panel where this frozen mess typically accumulates on most rides. Open the door, and the mess goes with it, revealing a clean-as-a-whistle surface to step over and keeping your pants clean.

Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See www.toyota.ca or your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of $17,515 (including $1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with $1,495 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of $89 with a cost of borrowing of $1,672.60 and a total obligation of $12,327.40. $0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometres at $0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may lease for less.

Experts trying to give vehicles their voice

Automotive communication.
Researchers are figuring out the best way for your car to talk to you

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

Although it can't carry on a conversation, your car communicates with you. Depending on how it's equipped, this can be anything from a warning when your seat belt isn't fastened, to chimes and lights if there's a vehicle alongside when you're trying to change lanes.

But those warning signals aren't randomly selected: "It requires significant testing and development," says Birsen Donmez, an assistant professor of industrial engineering at the University of Toronto, who is working on a safety feedback program for Toyota.

"Not everyone might react the same way to the same type of feedback, and the issue is to understand how to personalize these systems, because humans are so variable."

While Donmez isn't designing the actual systems, she's researching how drivers react to the feedback they're getting, and what types are most effective for the maximum number of drivers.

The system must be effective enough to get the driver's attention, but can't be so distracting that it diverts all of the driver's focus, and he or she ends up hitting the object that initially triggered the warning.

Factors that go into feedback design include what sets off a warning, such as speeding or wandering out of the lane; when the warning goes off; if it's visual or makes a sound, or both; how long it's on, and what information it provides to the driver.

Researchers use a variety of methods for testing, including focus groups, questionnaires to assess the risks that drivers might take, and driving simulators. For some projects, the test subjects drive in real-world conditions.

In one analysis, Donmez worked with Transport Canada to monitor a group of drivers and their reaction to vehicle feedback when they were speeding or following too close to the vehicle in front.

Not only did this provide information on the feedback, but it also let the researchers determine which drivers reacted most strongly to it, which could allow engineers to design systems that deliver the greatest assistance.

With so many individual drivers though, the system has to be geared toward providing benefit for a maximum number of people. "We go for the average, rather than each individual driver, unless it poses a danger for some drivers," Donmez says.

"At the worst case, you don't see a benefit (for every driver), but you don't see a decline in performance. You don't want to endanger anyone with the system."

To note

- **Warnings aren't the only issue.** Researchers also look at incentives such as fuel economy gauges, to be sure they aren't too distracting.
- **With and without.** In addition to seeing how subjects react to feedback, researchers also look at how they drive when it's taken away afterwards, to see how effective it is.
- **Admissions.** Test subjects are more likely to admit they do something, such as texting while driving, if they think other people are okay with it, but are less likely to admit anti-social behaviours such as impaired driving.

What does your vehicle communicate to you and how do you respond to it? JIL MCINTOSH/METRO

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
This is one of those days when you would rather be anywhere than where you are supposed to be. If you can find a legit way out of the situation then go for it. But if you fail to turn up, you could create a powerful enemy.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Honest effort gets results, so keep plugging away at what you are working on and don't get dispirited if results are slow. Nothing you do is wasted and one day soon you will make that breakthrough you long for.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may appear as if someone is being deliberately obstructive, but you should ask yourself if there was something you said or did that could have turned them against you. If so, it's not too late to say sorry.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Why are you pessimistic about your prospects? You may not have gotten everything you wanted recently but there is always tomorrow. You'll feel positive closer to the weekend.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
No matter how unsettling the changes that are taking place may be, keep telling yourself that in the long-term they will work in your favour. Your life story is unfolding as it should.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Do something today that livens things up both at home and at work. Some may think you lost your senses but they are just the sort of people who have been dragging you down.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is an important time for you and you will be making major changes to your lifestyle. The full moon on the 16th will clear away obstacles. Between now and then, plan big.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It seems you have made an error of judgment and all you can do is say sorry. If you sound sincere, others will forgive you and you can move on. But if your apology is grudging, bad feelings are likely to linger.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Most times your hunches are spot on but the planets warn your instincts are not to be trusted today, so take care. This is one of those occasions when you must stick to facts.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your relationship with authority may not be as good as it should be today, so watch what you say and be ready to back off if a conversation gets heated. You'll be the loser if it gets ugly.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may think someone is keeping something from you, but don't let it worry you. It's unlikely to be bad news and it's even possible they are planning some kind of surprise.

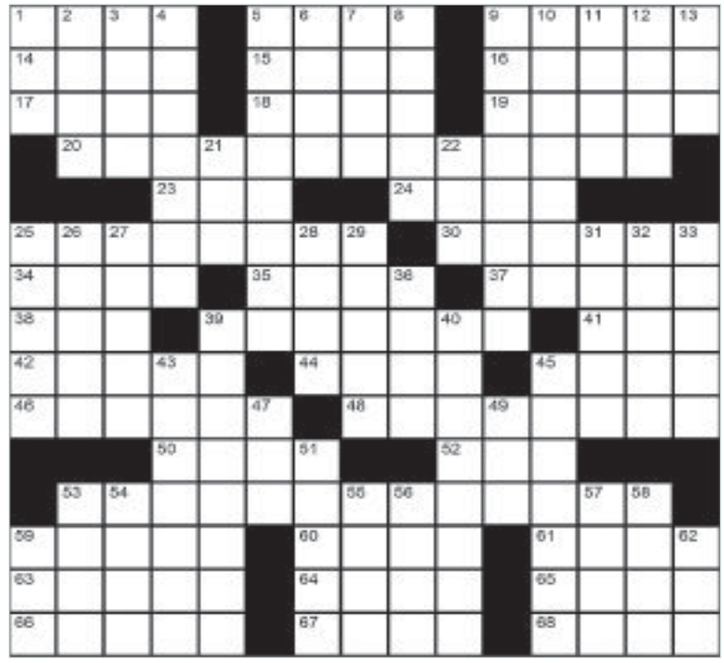
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You must let a certain person know that you have no intention of allowing them to get rich at your expense. Today's Mars-Jupiter link will bring tensions to a head — say what's on your mind.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

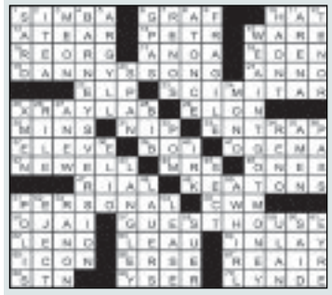
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Country legend Johnny
5. Interlock
9. __ Canada (Pest control company)
14. Vicinity
15. __ sax
16. Husky
17. Canadian actor Raymond
18. T.Rex's style
19. Some ducks
20. The ancient Ichthyosaur, for one: 2 wds.
23. Bear: Spanish
24. Rug sort
25. Ski resort transports
30. The __ Works ('80s band)
34. Lennon's in-laws
35. "...see __ __ believe..."
37. Comedy's Mr. Anderson
38. Orchestra __
39. Old Montreal horse-drawn carriage
41. TV show taper
42. Mo of CBS' "Sunday Morning"
44. "I could __ _ horse!"
45. Gladiator's 1502
46. Waiting to be connected: 2 wds.
48. Alberta community near the Saskatchewan border
50. Mister Ed's hair
52. Slangy put down
53. "Moonstruck" (1987) Canadian director: 2 wds.
59. Hawaiian island
60. Makeover show, "__ on a Dime"
61. Type of mineral
63. "It's _ __ from God!"
64. Ended
65. __ In Canada
66. Quebec 'cup'
67. Jewel's "You __ Meant for Me"
68. Bread spread

Down
1. Fare vehicle
2. Lily kind
3. Evening, in Italy
4. England: London department store
5. Julia in her 1989 'Steel' movie
6. Fashion magazine
7. Celestial body
8. Abodes
9. Barrier
10. Member of Canadian quartet The Tenors, Mr. Pereira
11. Ship part
12. "The Safety Dance" bit: "...can dance __ __ want to..."
13. Albany is its cap.
21. Prefix to 'thermal'
22. Fraternity letter
25. Give up amateur status: 2 wds.
26. Blooming __ (Starter menu item)
27. Top-__ (The best)
28. The Jetty __ __ Havre (Claude Monet painting)
29. Choo-choo-ing stuff
31. Blue Rodeo singer Jim
32. Bon Jovi's "__' on a Prayer"
33. "__, Indiana" (Early-'90s TV series)
36. Prefix to 'gon' (Eight-sided shape)
39. Medicine Cabinet: __ lotion
40. Canadian store HH = Home __
43. Canadian fashion label since 1983
45. "Cityline" 3 Chefs member, Mr. Capra
47. Scientific ID
49. Nintendo game console
51. Fund
53. Rocket org.
54. Nons opposites
55. Bee Gees' "__ Talkin'"
56. Rarely, hardly __
57. __ agreement
58. Connecting point
59. Nightspot in Broadway musical Cabaret, Kit __ Klub
62. New

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	5	8	6	1	3	7	4	9
9	1	6	4	8	7	3	2	5
7	3	4	9	2	5	1	6	8
8	6	5	2	3	9	4	7	1
4	9	3	5	7	1	6	8	2
1	2	7	8	6	4	9	5	3
5	4	1	7	9	8	2	3	6
6	7	9	3	5	2	8	1	4
3	8	2	1	4	6	5	9	7

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: -22° MIN: -24°	MAX: -11° MIN: -12°	MAX: -8° MIN: -9°

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